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Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 8 and 99-102 as set forth below:

1. (Currently amended) An inhibitor of a protein kinase $C\alpha$ (PKC α), the inhibitor comprising

A-Ala-Arg-Arg-X-B-Hyd-C-D- (SEQ ID NO:1), where A =AcHN-,

X=any amino acid or amino acid mimetic; B=Ala or a diaminopropionic acid (Dap) derivative having the formula

Hyd=Phe, Leu or IIe; C=Arg or Lys; and D=Ala or a Dap derivative having the formula

wherein any of the amino acids can alternatively be an analogous amino acid mimetic.

- 2-6. (Canceled)
- 7. (Original) The inhibitor of claim 1, wherein the PKC α is a human PKC α .
- 8. (Currently amended) An inhibitor of a protein kinase $C\alpha$ (PKC α), the inhibitor

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The inhibitor of claim 1, comprising

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9-93. (Canceled)

- 94. (Previously presented) The inhibitor of claim 1, having an IC_{50} <50 μ M for the PKC α .
- 95. (Previously presented) The inhibitor of claim 1, having an IC_{50} <10 μ M for the PKC α .
- 96. (Previously presented) The inhibitor of claim 1, having an IC_{50} <1 μ M for the PKC α .
- 97. (Previously presented) The inhibitor of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor has an IC_{50} for the PKC α <0.1 that of any other PKC isoform.
- 98. (Previously presented) The inhibitor of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor has an IC_{50} for the PKC α <0.01 that of any other PKC isoform.
 - 99. (Currently amended) The inhibitor of claim 8[[1]], comprising

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100. (Currently amended) The inhibitor of claim 8[[1]], consisting of

101. (Currently amended) The inhibitor of claim 8[[1]], comprising

102. (Currently amended) The inhibitor of claim 8[[1]], consisting of

103. (Previously presented) The inhibitor of claim 1, comprising

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104 (Previously presented) The inhibitor of claim 1, consisting of

105. (Previously presented) The inhibitor of claim 1, comprising

106. (Previously presented) The inhibitor of claim 1, consisting of

107. (Previously presented) The inhibitor of claim 1, comprising

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108. (Previously presented) The inhibitor of claim 1, consisting of

109. (Previously presented) The inhibitor of claim 1, comprising

110. (Previously presented) The inhibitor of claim 1, consisting of

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